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## Parliamentary Report

# PEACE THAT IS ALSO WAR

By LEA BEN-DON

THE first part of the Foreign Affairs debate has passed off quietly enough — even a Herut speaker who was asked just before the Prime Minister's statement whether Begin had any fireworks up his sleeve this time said slyly, "No. This is no time for talking."

Mr. Ben Gurion's policies are not sprung on the people suddenly. They are the fruit of long-range thinking. He rarely presents any startling new developments; but each time he pushes the same train of thought a little further and tries to clarify another portion of it. In September he said that he wanted peace with Egypt and more arms; he wanted the Armistice Agreement to be carefully and completely taken into account when necessary. In January he said that he does not want war, that we need more arms strength, that the Armistice Agreement is not being kept by the Arab states. The only new element was that the nation must prepare for greater contributions in the future and that we are not able to defend ourselves when need arises.

Mr. Sharet had a new subject for a part of the political side of the statement. He took issue on the violently anti-Israel statement made by Mr. Khrushchev (firmly pronounced "Khrushchek") by all the Russians in the Knesset. He said that the Soviet politician is likely to be greatly embarrassed by the fine selection of contradictory statements which the Foreign Minister had collected to confound them, but the rapidly dwindling number of friends of the USSR spent an uncomfortable half-hour.

**Counting Heads**

After this, the Knesset moved on rapidly to the question of counting heads. We are already fighting the war and can we still hope to prevent a conflagration? Begin thinks we are already right in the middle of it, and should get on with it, but in a more sober vein and without imaginary sorties to capture Ophi or even Cairo. Yet he is not the only one to press the claim that this is a new kind of war, fought deliberately with peace-time considerations still hampering the defenders, rather than the invasion of the Chinese was never a "war," but always for reasons of convenience. He had occasion to turn smilingly to his supporters a good many times during the three sessions, with a triumphant gesture that conveyed plainly enough his conviction that he had made converts in other parties. Most likely he overestimates the part he has

played in this respect. It is not that there have been persuaded of the wisdom of seeking to enlarge Israel's frontiers, but that the menace of Egyptian vengeance is becoming more and more inescapably defined as a direct threat of war.

Mr. Begin smiled when Yigal Allon, the one-time Palmach leader, said for Abba Hava that the war was not an emergency. He should stop warily, for the Jewish nation could not afford to lose this war. He smiled again when Mr. Ben-Zion said for the General Election that he did not think that the Government was handling the situation with sufficient firmness. He smiled once more when Mr. Rabin, another General Election candidate, called on the people to realize that the hour has struck, and that it is time to stop addressing monologues to the Arabs. The Americans and the Russians did not listen to him anyhow. He did not smile quite so broadly when Mr. Argov, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, said that it was no argument against a second round to say that it would not prevent a subsequent third round or fourth, perhaps. The thought was difficult to follow, and little encouragement to the war-now party.

**Attention to Hazan**

Nobody at all smiled in the Knesset and there was profound and unhappy attention when the Prime Minister was occupied by Mr. Ya'acov Hazan, the old-time Mapai leader, founding member of Mishmar Ha'emek and Shomer Hatzair. Mr. Hazan has lost none of his youthfulness and he is not ashamed to be sentimental because he knows he is honest. He speaks as a settler on the land, and his open spirit is

more than a badge of party membership. War is hidden, he said, war is destruction. We came to save our tragic nation, to give it back life, and to give life back to this country, to let our children grow up with joy, and to learn to live with our neighbors. As long as the ultimate horrors of war have not actually engulfed us, do not let us go out to meet them. Let us go on building the country and making it strong, and perhaps the crisis forced upon us from the outside will pass without war. Nevertheless he sounded formidable in his restraint and not a man to be trifled with once an attack was launched.

There were few speakers who struck a conciliatory note and might have drawn a scowl from Begin, unless it were Mr. Ben-Zion, the Mapai chairman of the Jewish Agency and only now co-opted to the Knesset. He also says, plainly enough, that if we are trying to prevent war then it is no good starting one, although he does not claim that preventing war can make up a nation's entire policy. He did say, however, that if we need arms from abroad we will have to reconcile ourselves to paying their price. This phrase was variously interpreted to mean anything from territorial concessions to practical guarantees to seal the arms up and not use them until permission is given, rather like the gaffers' rifles that used to be kept in readiness in Jewish settlements under the Mandate, and caused Hagana to store its own weapons discreetly but in a more readily accessible manner.

By the third day the debate was almost dead. The week-end was the summing-up comes, it may return to the semblance of life.

## Friday's Press:

# Export Licensing Overhaul

AFTER streamlining the export licenses procedure, writes "Davar" (Histradut), the Minister of Commerce and Industry is now directing attention to the improvement and encouragement of the export trade that will yield real returns. Mr. Sapir is not aiming at show-window displays, but at the real export trade of all its positions and transferring it to the Histradut.

His intentions of liquidating private enterprise in the import and export field in order to transfer its trade to the Histradut. The crusade is for "entrepreneur abolition" (and who if not the Histradut institutions make use of this meditation seriously and unreservedly?). The paper warns that this is a plot to deprive trade of all its positions and transferring it to the Histradut.

"Al Hamishmar" (Mapai) calls upon the Czechoslovak Republic to release Mordechai Oren, arrested four years ago, and to him, his family, his movement and country, justice.

"Here and Now" thinks that the Government and people of Israel, following the Knesset review of the situation, should get down to urgent tasks; that the pace will have to be speeded up considerably if we are to raise \$150m. for arms in Israel that mass voluntary service must be organized without losing its voluntary character, if it is to be effective.

**State of the Union**

SPOTLIGHTING President Eisenhower's call to Israel and the Arab states to make all the "contributions necessary" to achieve peace in the Middle East, "Davar" (World) points out that Israel is ready today, as she has always been, to come to an understanding. But the other side, which has sworn to annihilate her, is not ready and the only deterrent to an all-out attack till now has been its recognized weakness and fear of failure. With arms flow-

## Taxi-Drivers Strike in Paris

By ST. JOHN DONN-BYRNE

NOT long ago, an American taxi driver in Paris was killed by a late night client, bringing the scene of violent death of this nature to 10 in a decade, and the number of assaults on taxi-drivers up to 200. The unfortunate man's funeral was attended by more than 2,000 fellow taxi-drivers.

Their attendance was less out of regard for their dead colleague as for their own safety. All day there was a 50 per cent strike of taxi drivers designed to force the Government into giving them the right to carry their taxi licenses over their heads. The taxi-drivers' claim to some better degree of protection for themselves in their night driving around the seamy areas of Paris is certainly a point.

On the day of the strike, the taxi-drivers somewhat compromised their claim by overloading the cab of a non-striking driver, beating him up and injuring an elderly woman passenger. Last week the driver of my taxi lowered his window and shouted appalling phrases at the pupil of a driving school whose car had pulled up next to him by a red light. The pupil future was a horrible scene. I taxed my driver with having been unjust. The pupil had certainly not done anything wrong.

The taxi-driver, a big, youngish man, looked at me rather shocked and said that he always shouted at learner drivers, just to give them a taste of what they could expect in the future. The question remains what is to be done about preventing further assaults on taxi-drivers? Suggestions include an alarm siren which the driver can set off, and payment by compass, rather than by the Paris Metro and buses. This could relieve taxi-drivers from carrying tempting sums of money.

ing to the Arab countries from all sides, the outbreak is bound to occur once the Arabs feel that their venture will succeed.

America has always wished Israel well, but its effort to avoid war and hasten an Israel-Arab rapprochement will bear fruit only if that wish is accompanied by acts convincing the aggressors that if they open hostilities they are bound to lose. This conviction can be hammered home to them through the hasty strengthening of Israel by granting her arms equal in quality to those reaching the Arabs.

"Ha'aretz" (non-party) looks at the Jordan Supreme Council's verdict that the dissolution of Parliament was illegal and calls for a calculated political manoeuvre designed to delay the showdown on Baghdad till the spirits have calmed down. The paper avows that the Council's conclusions included the dictum that Hussein reigns but does not rule, a step calculated to amend the bad impression made on the British with Hussein's clinging to Cairo instead of toward Baghdad.

It seems that if Hussein values his throne he will have to alter that attitude and give the British and pro-British-Baghdad elements in Jordan another chance.

"Hamodia" (World Aguda) examines the conference of the British Middle East envoys and says that it is sitting before the "broken trough" of British policy. The days of British influence in Jordan are numbered and even if the British are able to overcome the present difficulties, it is only a matter of time: sooner or later they will have to clear out and go the way they went in the case of India, Persia, Israel, Egypt and next, Cyprus. What is so disquieting about the imminence of Britain's loss of all key positions in the Middle East is that she insists on continuing along the road to failure, trying to patch up matters at the expense of Israel.

## Arab Schooling Key to Reform

By GERDA LUFT

IN 1946, 20 per cent of all Moslem children and 50 per cent of all Christian children went to school in this country. In 1949 there were 1,417 children in Arab schools; in 1955 there were 25,468 — 67 per cent of all school-age Arab children, or 71 per cent, if Beduin are excluded. This in itself is a great achievement. It appears even greater if the difficulties under which this work developed are taken into account.

Under the British Mandate, Arab schools were the concern of the Mandatory Government, while Hebrew schools enjoyed autonomy under the Jewish Agency. When the Arabs fled, the majority of teachers left with them, and the Israel Ministry of Education had to build up Arab schools from scratch.

The Compulsory Education Law guaranteed free elementary education to every boy and girl. But there were not enough teachers, not enough buildings, not enough books — as with Jewish immigrants from the Oriental countries, the work was hard.

Village school buildings were inadequate under the Mandate. They often consisted of one room where the various classes were squeezed down together in groups. The cooperation of the villagers in putting up buildings was reluctant. Even today the teachers complain of having too little room.

**Teachers and Books**

The Ministry, which is trying to do everything at once, had a hard time getting teachers together. Those who had remained were taken for refresher courses. Others came to teach before having received the necessary training and are receiving supplementary instruction at the Teachers' Seminary in Jaffa.

A peculiar problem of the Arab schools is that of textbooks. Mandatory schools employed books published in the neighbouring countries. Since then, only a few texts have been written in Israel. The old books, often tattered, are handed down by one class to the next every year. The writing and publishing of adequate textbooks is one of the most important tasks. But it takes time and there are not many people qualified to undertake this task.

A major revolution in the Arab

village is schooling for girls, which necessitated some expenditure in the villages. Co-education, too, has been introduced, not as a matter of educational principle, but because there are neither enough classrooms nor enough teachers to teach boys and girls separately. Some parents refused to send their girls to school together with boys, and some boys refused to sit alongside girls. All these difficulties were overcome. It is true that girls still make up a much lower percentage in Arab schools than boys, but the teaching of both sexes together is now taken almost for granted.

The new generation of teachers is growing up in these schools will differ markedly from its parents. A visit to one of the big elementary schools in the Triangle gives a vivid picture of the changes. The children look better fed, better clad and healthier than they were some ten years ago.

**Six Secondary Schools**

The Triangle, which is rich in water and lies near to urban markets is, of course, better off than remote districts of Galilee; but there is no denying that the position as a whole has improved considerably. Health and social services leave their mark. Six secondary schools serve the Arabs in various parts of the country and from these the gifted pupils can go on to the Hebrew University and the Haifa Technion.

In these elementary schools all over the country, some badly housed, some well ordered and disciplined, a silent revolution is going on. It will build up the top of the Arab social fabric that crumbled after the disaster of war.

The girl who had learned to read and write and who sees for the first time how water comes out of a kitchen tap, will have a different outlook on life than her mother who was bought in marriage. The teen-age boy who hangs around the tractor corner and scans a Hebrew newspaper gets new ideas for the development of his parents' property. What is the result of this? Is it the Arab neatly into the new fabric of the "Jewish State"? Or is it consciously or not helping to foster an Arab nationalism that will result in friction? We shall see that there is no simple answer to this fateful question. (This is the third of six articles. The first appeared on January 4 and 6.)

## Readers' Letters

**NOT QUOTING SHARETT**

Editor, The Jerusalem Post  
Sir: — "The New York Times" did not say, as reported in your issue of January 6, 1968, that "Sharett complained B.G.'s raid had 'wrecked' his mission to Washington."

The "Times" article said: "Persons in a position to know say that the raid 'wrecked' Mr. Sharett's mission."

Those "persons" I can assure you, were not quoting Mr. Sharett.

Yours, etc.  
HARRY GILROY  
Jerusalem, January 6

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For the sake of accuracy, we wish to add that the launching of our Premium Savings schemes was given the fullest support by the Minister of Finance, who signed an agreement with our Bank, whereby the cash premiums offered to the savers under our plan will be exempted from payment of income tax.

Yours, etc.  
The Palestine Discount Bank Ltd.  
Tel Aviv, December 29.

**PEN FRIENDS**

MRS. LYNN BILDERBACK, 304 S. Broadway—Apt. A, Redondo Beach, California, U.S.A., who is corresponding with 167 foreign countries with the hope of furthering world friendship, would like to correspond with Israeli women between the ages of 21 to 35. This is a Cal Scot Den Mother and has two sons.

**SAVINGS**

Editor, The Jerusalem Post  
Sir: — Your review of "Davar's" comments on the popular savings plans offered to the public in your issue of December 27, entirely ignores "Davar's" reference to the fact that we were

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